

Response to Amendment

The reply filed on 16 July 2008 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because of the following omission(s) or matter(s): remarks were not presented regarding the limitations added to independent claims 19, 36, and 53 in view of the prior art used in the rejections of the Office Action mailed 26 December 2007. See 37 CFR 1.111. Since the above-mentioned reply appears to be *bona fide*, applicant is given **ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS** from the mailing date of this notice, whichever is longer, within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Furthermore, the examiner would like to take this opportunity to allow applicant to respond to the possible 112, second paragraph, issues regarding the admission by applicant's representative in the telephonic interview on 26 June 2008 that the "lock core" and the "knob shaft" are the same components. Specifically, limitations such as "on or in the lock core or on or in the knob shaft" are unclear in light of the clarification that the "lock core" and "knob shaft" are equivalent.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ALYSON M. MERLINO whose telephone number is (571)272-2219. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 7:30 - 5:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patricia Engle can be reached on (571) 272-6660. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Patricia L Engle/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3673

AM
July 17, 2008